

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 OIC-02 /119 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9437

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LOS, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN LOS TEAM

REF: (A) LAGOS 414 (B) 76 STATE 298001

1. IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUALS LISTED PARA 3 REFTEL A, E.O. BAYAGBONA, DIRECTOR NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH, SHOULD BE LISTED AMONG INFLUENTIAL PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN FORMULATING

NIGERIAN LOS POLICY. A FORMER DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, BAYAGBONA HAS GOOD GRASP OF LOS ISSUES AND IS MEMBER NIGERIAN LOS DELEGATION. HE SERVES AS ADVISER ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND MOST RECENTLY HELPED FORMULATE NIGERIAN POSITION ON CONTINENTAL MARGIN (LAGOS 780).

2. ACCORDING BAYAGBONA, MINISTRY JUSTICE (ATTORNEY GENERAL, SOLICITOR GENERAL OR DIRECTOR PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS) USUALLY PROVIDES NIGERIAN LOS DELEGATION HEAD. HE HIMSELF, ON OCCASION, HAS HEADED THE DELEGATION IN ABSENCE ONE OF THE JUSTICE REPRESENTATIVES. THE DIRECTOR RELEGATED NIGERIAN MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (WITH EXCEPTION ADENIJI) AND UN MISSION PERSONNEL TO LESSER ROLES. HE ALSO

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DOWNPLAYED ROLE OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WITH COMMENT THAT NIGERIAN POSITIONS ON FISHERIES ISSUES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AND THEREFORE

NEED FOR INPUT FROM THIS QUARTER IS NO LONGER REQUIRED. BAYAGBONA CONFIRMED THAT MINISTRIES LISTED REFTEL ARE PART OF FMG'S INTER-AGENCY LOS TEAM AND THAT MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND ENERGY HAS MEMBER ON THAT BODY. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT MINISTRY TRANSPORT ON

OCCASION SERVES IN AN "ADVISORY" ROLE.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES. FIRST, J. TOBOR, BAYAGBONA'S SUCCESSOR AS DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES HAS FOLLOWED HIS FORMER MENTOR TO THE INSITUTE AND NOW IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR THERE. NEITHER BAYAGBONA NOR TOBOR HAS LOST CONTACT WITH THAT FIELD, HOWEVER, AS NEW DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, B. F. DADA, HAS HIS OFFICE IN ROOM NEXT TO BAYAGBONA'S AND SEEMINGLY IS CLOSE CONFEDERATE. THIS MAY HELP EXPLAIN BAYAGBONA'S DISMISSAL OF IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT LOS ROLE PLAYED BY FISHERIES DIRECTOR. SECONDLY, SOLICITOR GENERAL AND PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, MR. J.D. OGUNDERE, HAS BEEN NAMED A STATE JUDGE AND HAS LEFT THE MINISTRY. MR. S. O. SOGBETUN HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE AND IS SERVING AS ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL. HIS FAMILIARITY WITH LOS MATTERS NOT YET KNOWN.

4. COMMENT: WITH THESE CHANGES IN JUSTICE, TOP-LEVEL OF NIGERIAN LOS TEAM HAS UNDERGONE RATHER COMPLETE CHANGE. MANY TECHNICAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING BAYAGBONA, REMAIN. THEY WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE ON NIGERIAN DELEGATION PARTICULARLY AS RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED TEAM LEADERS WILL BE FORCED RELY HEAVILY ON THEM FOR GUIDANCE AND ADVICE. THOSE TECHNOCRATS, WHO ARE USUALLY ADVOCATES OF PRAGMATIC "WHAT'S-IN-IT-FOR-NIGERIA" LINE MAY WELL HOLD THE KEY TO ACTIONS OF NIGERIAN DELEGATION AT UPCOMING LOS SESSION. THEREFORE, WHILE BAYAGBONA HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO MEET WITH U.S. LOS EXPERTS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO U.S. (LAGOS 780), IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR ONE OF STATE EXPERTS WHO KNOWS HIM TO JOIN THIS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND IMPORTANT MEMBER OF NIGERIAN LOS TEAM IN BOSTON, RHODE ISLAND OR

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DELAWARE IN ORDER TO SPEND A FEW HOURS EXCHANING IDEAS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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